REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

OFFICE OF FILM & LITERATURE CLASSIFICATION
Te Tari Whakaropū Tukuata, Tuhituhinga

Date of entry in Register:	03 June 1997
Name of applicant/court:	Secretary for Internal Affairs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	The Mistress Speaks
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Not Stated
Producer:	Not Stated
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Format:	Video Recording VHS/PAL
Country of Origin:	Not Stated
Language:	English

Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	The Mistress Speaks	Running time:	56.08
Trailers:	Nil	Running time:	
		Total Running time:	56.08

Excision/Alteration: No.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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Classification Decision:

Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Display conditions:

Nil.

Descriptive Note:

Contains sex scenes.

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Direction to issue a label has not been given.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The video recording entitled *The Mistress Speaks* is classified as:
Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

The publication depicts a dominant/submissive relationship between Mistress Antoinette and her male "slave". Mistress Antoinette disciplines her "slave" using verbal instructions, a riding crop, a paddle, and a cat-o-nine tails. Such control of the relationship degrades and dehumanises the "slave". However, the nature of the relationship appears mutual and is defined within a bondage and discipline role-play. Mistress Antoinette is concerned for her "slave's" health and safety, as evidenced by her checking his wrists after they have been bound. Such factors mitigate the degrading and dehumanising aspects of the publication to a certain extent. An element of sexual activity is evidenced by Mistress Antoinette teasing her "slave" with her body, eventually letting him perform cunnilingus on her, even though she is fully clothed.

The culmination of the degrading and dehumanising aspects of the publication, and the strong sexual referencing, render the availability of the publication likely to be injurious to the public good, unless restricted to an adult audience.

OFLC Ref: 9501308

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